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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4326

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HOUSE REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

George W. Bush
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I had never been to a national political convention before, so this past week in New York was especially memorable for me. But of all the speeches, interviews, and receptions, the one memory that will always stay with me was the night you gave your acceptance speech.

I cannot tell you how proud I was when you turned to the Texas delegation and began the phrase "and too many OB/GYN doctors are having to leave their practice". I felt as if you were speaking directly to me, and I'm certain other physicians watching on television felt the same way.

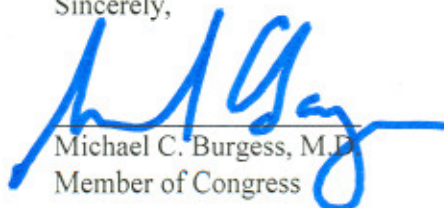
You have been a leader addressing this country's medical liability crisis. And as a doctor, I have watched how it has affected the medical profession. But we both know that it really hurts patients the most.

It has been a year and a half since the House of Representatives first passed meaningful medical liability reform, and in that time, a second medical liability reform bill has been passed by the chamber. This reasonable legislation has been stalled in the Senate and now time runs short on our congressional schedule this year.

The crisis has persisted. While we fail to act, doctors leave their practice. While we fail to vote, patients lose their access. The human costs are high, the financial costs are staggering. The embedded cost of defensive medicine matches dollar for dollar the cost of the prescription drug program we enacted last year.

Your leadership has been invaluable. Your dedication has been a beacon. Please know that you have an ally in the House of Representatives when it comes to achieving this goal of meaningful medical liability reform. I hope to witness the bill signing early in your second term.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress